

**PATTERNED RECORDING MEDIA AND APPARATUS  
AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME**

**ABSTRACT**

5           A method for patterning a recording medium selectively thermally couples  
a recording medium and a heat source to alter a chemical composition of the  
recording medium. An apparatus for patterning a recording medium has a heat  
source for generating and directing an incident thermal wave to a recording  
medium so as to alter a chemical composition of the recording medium, and a  
10       controller for coordinating a mutual position of the incident thermal wave and the  
recording medium for inducing a direct thermal coupling between the recording  
medium and the heat source.